



MAINE STATE POLICE GENERAL ORDER

E-2

SUBJECT: MAINE STATE POLICE OATH OF OFFICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03.11.2021

EXPIRATION DATE: 03.11.2028

RECENT HISTORY: AMENDED (03.11.2021); AMENDED (08.01.2020); REVISES MSP GO E-2 (05.05.2010); CONVERTED TO WEB FORMAT ON 01.09.2009; FORMERLY G.O. 1B (EFFECTIVE DATE 08.14.2007), WHICH RESCINDED THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF G.O. 1B (EFFECTIVE DATE 02.08.1993)

DISTRIBUTION CODE: 2 (MAY BE PUBLICLY DISCLOSED)

APPLICABILITY CODE: S, Z

MLEAP: 2.02, 2.03

SIGNATURE OF COLONEL:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John Cote", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

I. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this General Order is to establish the Maine State Police policy concerning the Maine State Police Oath of Office and Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

II. POLICY

1. The policy of the State Police is:

- A. To administer a *Maine State Police Oath of Office for Enlistment* to individuals enlisting as sworn law enforcement officers with the Maine State Police; **MLEAP 2.03**
- B. To administer a *Maine State Police Oath of Office for Promotion* to Maine State Police officers at times they are promoted; and
- C. To require newly enlisted and promoted officers to read and agree to abide by the *Law Enforcement Code of Ethics*, which must be the [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#)-approved version. **MLEAP 2.02**

III. DEFINITIONS

- 1. For the purposes of this General Order, the terms included in this section are defined as follows, unless otherwise indicated in the order.
 - A. Code. "Code" means the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.
 - B. Colonel. "Colonel" means the Chief of the Maine State Police, or her or his designee.
 - C. Oath of Office for Enlistment. "Oath of Office for Enlistment" means the oath of office administered to individuals enlisting as sworn officers with the Maine State Police.
 - D. Oath of Office for Promotion. "Oath of Office for Promotion" means the oath of office administered to Maine State Police officers at a time of promotion.

IV. PROCEDURE

1. THE OATH

- A. To assume a sworn status, all Maine State Police officers must take and agree to abide by the Oath of Office for Enlistment. **MLEAP 2.03**
- B. All recruits shall take the Oath of Office for Enlistment during their last week at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.
 - 1. In the case of an operational emergency, the Colonel may authorize the administration of the Oath of Office for Enlistment earlier than the last week of the academy.
- C. All newly-promoted sworn officers shall take the Oath of Office for Promotion at the time they are promoted.
- D. Both the Oath of Office for Enlistment and the Oath of Office for Promotion must be administered by the Colonel.

2. THE CODE

- A. All officers shall read and agree to abide by the Code.

- B. All recruits shall read and agree to abide by the Code within one day of being hired by the Maine State Police.
- C. All newly-promoted sworn personnel shall re-affirm their agreement to abide by the Code at each time of promotion.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH AND CODE

- A. At the time of the administration of the Oath of Office for Enlistment, an individual taking such oath shall raise her or his right hand and repeat the Colonel's reading of the oath; after doing so, the newly-sworn officer shall sign a copy of the Oath of Office for Enlistment.

- 1. The signed copy of the Oath of Office for Enlistment shall be placed in the newly-sworn officer's personnel file.

- B. At the time of the administration of the Oath of Office for Promotion, an officer taking such oath shall raise her or his right hand and repeat the Colonel's reading of the oath; after doing so, the officer shall sign a copy of the Oath of Office for Promotion.

- 1. The signed copy of the Oath of Office for Promotion shall be placed in the newly-promoted officer's personnel file.

- C. After the administration of the appropriate oath, the Colonel shall review the Code with each newly-sworn or -promoted officer, who shall thereafter sign a copy of the Code.

- 1. The signed copy of the Code shall be placed in the officer's personnel file.

ATTACHMENTS

- [Maine State Police Oath of Office for Enlistment](#)
- [Maine State Police Oath of Office for Promotion](#)
- [Law Enforcement Code of Ethics](#)



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NOTICE

THIS GENERAL ORDER IS FOR USE OF THE MAINE STATE POLICE AND NOT FOR ANY OTHER AGENCY. THE GENERAL ORDER IS NOT INTENDED TO BE RELIED UPON BY ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL OR PRIVATE OR

PUBLIC AGENCY. THE GENERAL ORDER EXPRESSLY DOES NOT CREATE, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO CREATE, A HIGHER LEGAL STANDARD OF SAFETY OR CARE IN AN EVIDENTIARY SENSE WITH RESPECT TO THIRD-PARTY CLAIMS. VIOLATIONS OF THIS ORDER ONLY MAY FORM THE BASIS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS BY THE MAINE STATE POLICE.



**STATE OF MAINE
MAINE STATE POLICE**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE**

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality, and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence, and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice.

I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession ... law enforcement.

Signature of Officer:



STATE OF MAINE
MAINE STATE POLICE

OATH OF OFFICE FOR ENLISTMENT

I, NAME OF OFFICER, do hereby acknowledge to have voluntarily enlisted this DAY DATE day of MONTH as a State Police Officer of the State of Maine, under the conditions prescribed by law, and I solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America and the State of Maine. I do also solemnly swear that I will carry out the duties of my office to the best of my ability, and that I will obey the orders of the Governor of the State of Maine and of the officers appointed over me according to law and the rules and regulations of the State Police, and that I will uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of Maine, so help me God.

Signature of Officer Taking the Oath:

Signature of Officer Administering the Oath:

Date:



STATE OF MAINE
MAINE STATE POLICE

OATH OF OFFICE FOR PROMOTION

I, NAME OF OFFICER, do hereby acknowledge that I am being promoted to the rank of RANK, under the conditions prescribed by law, and I solemnly swear that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America and the State of Maine. I do also solemnly swear that I will carry out the duties of my office to the best of my ability, and that I will obey the orders of the Governor of the State of Maine and of the officers appointed over me according to law and the rules and regulations of the State Police, and that I will uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of Maine, so help me God.

Signature of Officer Taking the Oath:

Signature of Officer Administering the Oath:

Date: